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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1. (original)   A method for refining a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

mapping the user query to one or more search concepts; and,

displaying a list of the search concepts associated with the query.

2. (original)   The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating, upon the user's request, a preferred query associated with at least one of the one or more search concepts to provide improved search results.

3. (original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more search concepts are popular search concepts and wherein their relative popularity can be used to order the displayed list.

4. (original)   The method of claim 3, further comprising, for the one or more search concepts, adding a number of popularity points to the concept for each of a plurality of different query phrases that matches one of a plurality of key phrases associated with the concept and that is unique to the concept, wherein the number of popularity points is proportional to a number of times the query phrase appears in a query log.

5. (original)   The method of claim 2, wherein initiating the preferred search query comprises selecting a key phrase uniquely associated with the concept and having a greatest

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popularity for the concept within the query log as indicated by popularity points added to the matching concept as a result of the key phrase matching a query phrase within the query log.

6. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising apportioning a number of popularity points among two or more of the search concepts when a plurality of different query phrases match one of a plurality of key phrases associated with the two or more search concepts, wherein the number of popularity points is proportional to the number of times the query phrase appears in the query log.

7. (original) The method of claim 3, further comprising determining a popularity measure of the search concept as a function of the popularity points of the search concept and the popularity points of a most popular one of the one or more search concepts.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed by execution of instructions stored on a computer-readable medium.

9. (original) A method for refining a user query, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a user;

mapping the user query to one or more search concepts; and,

using the search concepts associated with the query to provide a set of improved search results.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising automatically initiating a preferred query associated with at least one of the one or more search concepts to provide the set of improved search results.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the set of improved search results comprises one or more sub-sets of the set of improved search results, each sub-set associated with one of the search concepts and having a number of search results proportional to a relative popularity of the one or more concepts.

12. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more search concepts are popular search concepts and wherein their relative popularity can be used to display a list of the search concepts in order of popularity.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising, for the one or more search concepts, adding a number of popularity points to the concept for each of a plurality of different query phrases that matches one of a plurality of key phrases associated with the concept and that is unique to the concept, wherein the number of popularity points is proportional to a number of times the query phrase appears in a query log.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein automatically initiating the preferred search query comprises selecting a key phrase uniquely associated with the concept and having a greatest popularity for the concept within the query log as indicated by popularity

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points added to the matching concept as a result of the key phrase matching a query phrase

within the query log.

15. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising apportioning a number of

popularity points among two or more of the search concepts when a plurality of different

query phrases match one of a plurality of key phrases associated with the two or more search

concepts, wherein the number of popularity points is proportional to the number of times the

query phrase appears in the query log.

16. (original) The method of claim 12, further comprising determining a popularity

measure of the search concept as a function of the popularity points of the search concept and

the popularity points of a most popular one of the one or more search concepts.

17. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the method is performed by execution

of instructions stored on a computer-readable medium.

Claims 18 to 27 (withdrawn)

28. (original) A system comprising:

a server communicatively coupled with a client at which a user generates a

query, wherein the server maps the user query to one or more search concepts and returns to

the client for display to the user a list of the search concepts associated with the query.

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29. (once amended)   The system of claim ~~26~~ 28, wherein the server is a search

engine and the client is a web browser.

30. (once amended)   The system of claim ~~26~~ 28, wherein the server and the client

are applications.

Claims 31 to 33 (withdrawn)